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Human Services Division

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March 19, 1997

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond
Chairman, Subcommittee on VA, HUD,
and Independent Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate

Subject: National Service Programs: Enrollment and Education Award Data on
Selected AmeriCorps Projects

Last month, we issued a report on AmeriCorps state commissions as mandated by the Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-134).¹ The report provided information on (1) the statutory role of state commissions; (2) state commission operations, including project level outputs from 24 national service projects within their purview, such as participant enrollment, attrition, and education award usage; and (3) extending state commissions' administrative and oversight role over AmeriCorps and correspondingly decreasing the federal government's role. In summary, we found that

- the national service statute emphasized state control over AmeriCorps,
- commission budgets and staffing, and project outputs varied considerably, and
- state and federal officials agreed on the need for a federal role, but differed on the degree of state control.

¹National Service Programs: Role of State Commissions in Implementing the AmeriCorps Program (GAO/HEHS-97-49, Feb. 20, 1997).

This correspondence responds to your request for supplemental information on the report on AmeriCorps' state commissions. Specifically, you asked us, for the aforementioned 24 AmeriCorps projects, to (1) distinguish between full- and part-time participants for enrollment, attrition, and education award usage counts, expressing enrollment and attrition figures in full-time equivalency; (2) determine the number of participants whose education award eligibility is pending review or service completion; and (3) distinguish between the number of participants who earned a full or pro-rated share of an education award. This information is provided in the two enclosures and pertains to the 1994-95 program year.

Enclosure 1 presents the enrollment and attrition data on a full-time, part-time, and full-time equivalent basis. Enclosure 2 shows the following data:

- Total awards earned: education awards earned by full- and part-time participants.²
- Full awards: education awards earned by full- and part-time participants who received the maximum value of an award for completing their entire terms of service.
- Pro-rated awards: education awards earned by full- and part-time participants who did not complete an entire term of service because of compelling personal circumstances and received a reduced award amount based on service time completed.³
- Ineligible for award: participants who (1) did not complete their terms of service and failed to earn an education award or who (2) completed their service and opted to receive a non-federally subsidized cash award instead of an education award.
- Awards pending: education awards assigned to (1) participants who are still working toward completing their terms of service or (2) participants for whom

²Participants can earn an education award up to \$4,725 for full-time service or half that amount for part-time service. A minimum of 1,700 hours of service within a year is required to earn the full award. To earn a part-time award, a participant must perform 900 hours of community service within 2 years (or within 3 years in the case of full-time college students).

³Participants can earn pro-rated education awards when they are released from service for compelling personal circumstances, such as illness or critical family matters, and have served at least 15 percent of their service term.

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the Corporation for National and Community Service has not received certification of service completion.

- Awards accessed: education awards used by participants to make payments to qualified postsecondary institutions or student loan lenders.⁴

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We hope this information provides the additional perspective you requested. We will make copies of this correspondence available to other interested parties. Please call me at (202) 512-7014 or Jeff Appel at (617) 565-7513 if you or your staff have any questions.

Cornelia M. Blanchette

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Associate Director, Education
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Enclosures - 2

⁴Participants must use their education awards within 7 years after they have completed their service.

**SELECTED AMERICORPS PROJECT ENROLLMENT AND ATTRITION INFORMATION FOR THE
1994-95 PROGRAM YEAR**

Enrollment		Ended service early		
Type	Number	Total released	For cause ^a	For compelling personal reasons
California				
Bay Area Youth Agency Consortium AmeriCorps Project				
Full-time	54	13	10	3
Part-time	6	0	0	0
Full-time equivalent	57	13	10	3
Building Up Los Angeles				
Full-time	99	36 ^b	22	13
Part-time	26	7	4	3
Full-time equivalent	112	39.5	24	14.5
California Conservation Corps AmeriCorps				
Full-time	78	33	10	23
Part-time	57	10	4	6
Full-time equivalent	106.5	38	12	26
East Bay Conservation Corps AmeriCorps Collaborative				
Full-time	143	70	41	29
Part-time	26	6	6	0
Full-time equivalent	156	73	44	29
Maryland				
Appalachian Service Through Action and Resources				
Full-time	32	9	8	1
Part-time	0	0	0	0
Full-time equivalent	32	9	8	1

Enrollment		Ended service early		
Type	Number	Total released	For cause ^a	For compelling personal reasons
United Youth Corps of Maryland				
Full-time	128	50	45	5
Part-time	0	0	0	0
Full-time equivalent	128	50	45	5
Enhancing Neighborhood Action by Local Empowerment				
Full-time	24	10	5	5
Part-time	0	0	0	0
Full-time equivalent	24	10	5	5
Maryland Students Taking Responsibility for Tomorrow				
Full-time	5	1	0	1
Part-time	28	2	1	1
Full-time equivalent	19	2	0.5	1.5
Missouri				
St. Louis Partners for Service				
Full-time	31	7	3	4
Part-time	0	0	0	0
Full-time equivalent	31	7	3	4
Grace Hill AmeriCorps RiverFront Trail Project				
Full-time	20	6	4	2
Part-time	18	9	9	0
Full-time equivalent	29	10.5	8.5	2
Southeast Missouri Partnership for Community Service				
Full-time	23	10	7	3
Part-time	18	13	13	0
Full-time equivalent	32	16.5	13.5	3

Enrollment		Ended service early		
Type	Number	Total released	For cause ^a	For compelling personal reasons
Come as You Are Project				
Full-time	12	7	2	5
Part-time	28	14	10	4
Full-time equivalent	26	14	7	7
Rhode Island				
Leadership, Education and Service Enterprise				
Full-time	16	6	6	0
Part-time	9	4	2	2
Full-time equivalent	20.5	8	7	1
City Year, Rhode Island				
Full-time	85	17	17	0
Part-time	0	0	0	0
Full-time equivalent	85	17	17	0
Texas				
Casa Verde Builders Program				
Full-time	64	38	37	1
Part-time	0	0	0	0
Full-time equivalent	64	38	37	1
Making Connections for Children and Youth				
Full-time	28	11	6	5
Part-time	22	10	8	2
Full-time equivalent	39	16	10	6
Serve Houston Youth Corps				
Full-time	64	18	8	10
Part-time	0	0	0	0
Full-time equivalent	64	18	8	10

Enrollment		Ended service early		
Type	Number	Total released	For cause ^a	For compelling personal reasons
Parenting Education Project				
Full-time	51	21	10	11
Part-time	10	0	0	0
Full-time equivalent	56	21	10	11
Virginia				
Virginia Commonwealth University AmeriCorps				
Full-time	4	2	2	0
Part-time	33	15	14	1
Full-time equivalent	20.5	9.5	9	0.5
Service to Alexandria				
Full-time	21	20	3	17
Part-time	0	0	0	0
Full-time equivalent	21	20	3	17
Washington				
AmeriCorps Youth in Service				
Full-time	19	5	4	1
Part-time	24	4	3	1
Full-time equivalent	31	7	5.5	1.5
Spokane Service Team				
Full-time	33	19	4	15
Part-time	0	0	0	0
Full-time equivalent	33	19	4	15
Washington AmeriCorps				
Full-time	322	94	69	25
Part-time	28	7	4	3
Full-time equivalent	336	97.5	71	26.5

Enrollment		Ended service early		
Type	Number	Total released	For cause ^a	For compelling personal reasons
Educational Conservation Corps				
Full-time	97	41	37	4
Part-time	0	0	0	0
Full-time equivalent	97	41	37	4

^aParticipants may be released for cause for a variety of reasons, including being convicted of a felony, chronic truancy, or consistent failure to follow directions. In addition, participants released for cause may include those who leave a project early to take advantage of significant opportunities for personal development or growth, such as educational or professional advancement.

^bA total of 36 participants ended service early; however, 1 could not be classified as leaving "for cause" or "compelling personal circumstances" based on available data.

**SELECTED AMERICORPS PROJECT EDUCATION AWARD INFORMATION FOR THE 1994-95
PROGRAM YEAR**

Enrollment type	Awards earned			Awards unearned		Awards accessed ^a
	Total awards earned	Full awards	Pro-rated awards	Ineligible for award	Awards pending	
California						
Bay Area Youth Agency Consortium AmeriCorps Project						
Full-time	44	41	3	7	3	19
Part-time	6	6	0	0	0	1
Building Up Los Angeles						
Full-time	66	53	13	22	11	23
Part-time	21	18	3	4	1	6
California Conservation Corps AmeriCorps						
Full-time	64	41	23	11	3	21
Part-time	51	45	6	4	2	8
East Bay Conservation Corps AmeriCorps Collaborative						
Full-time	98	69	29	41	4	52
Part-time	20	20	0	6	0	12
Maryland						
Appalachian Service Through Action and Resources						
Full-time	22	21	1	8	2	13
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
United Youth Corps of Maryland						
Full-time	66	61	5	45	17	35
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhancing Neighborhood Action by Local Empowerment						
Full-time	19	14	5	5	0	10
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0

Enrollment type	Awards earned			Awards unearned		Awards accessed ^a
	Total awards earned	Full awards	Pro-rated awards	Ineligible for award	Awards pending	
Maryland Students Taking Responsibility for Tomorrow						
Full-time	3	2	1	0	2	2
Part-time	9	8	1	1	18	7
Missouri						
St. Louis Partners for Service						
Full-time	28	24	4	3	0	19
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grace Hill AmeriCorps RiverFront Trail Project						
Full-time	13	11	2	7	0	3
Part-time	9	9	0	9	0	2
Southeast Missouri Partnership for Community Service						
Full-time	16	13	3	7	0	11
Part-time	5	5	0	13	0	4
Come as You Are Project						
Full-time	10	5	5	2	0	7
Part-time	18	14	4	10	0	9
Rhode Island						
Leadership, Education and Service Enterprise						
Full-time	10	10	0	6	0	7
Part-time	7	5	2	2	0	3
City Year, Rhode Island						
Full-time	47	47	0	22	16	26
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0

Enrollment type	Awards earned			Awards unearned		Awards accessed ^a
	Total awards earned	Full awards	Pro-rated awards	Ineligible for award	Awards pending	
Texas						
Casa Verde Builders Program						
Full-time	23	22	1	37	4	4
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Making Connections for Children and Youth						
Full-time	22	17	5	6	0	14
Part-time	13	11	2	8	1	5
Serve Houston Youth Corps						
Full-time	56	46	10	8	0	33
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parenting Education Project						
Full-time	40	29	11	10	1	13
Part-time	10	10	0	0	0	5
Virginia						
Virginia Commonwealth University AmeriCorps						
Full-time	2	2	0	2	0	1
Part-time	19	18	1	14	0	12
Service to Alexandria						
Full-time	17	0	17	3	1	3
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington						
AmeriCorps Youth in Service						
Full-time	15	14	1	4	0	13
Part-time	21	20	1	3	0	15

Enrollment type	Awards earned			Awards unearned		Awards accessed ^a
	Total awards earned	Full awards	Pro-rated awards	Ineligible for award	Awards pending	
Spokane Service Team						
Full-time	28	13	15	4	1	7
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington AmeriCorps						
Full-time	232	207	25	69	21	126
Part-time	22	19	3	4	2	11
Educational Conservation Corps						
Full-time	58	54	4	39	0	20
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0

^a"Awards accessed" represents the number of participants who have chosen to have payments made, in any amount up to and including their entire balance, to qualified postsecondary institutions or student loan lenders, or both, from their education award monies earned and held in trust by the U.S. Treasury.

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